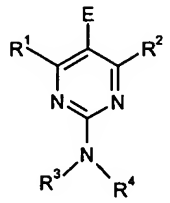
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (1):



Formula (1)

which comprises

a) reacting a compound of formula R^1-CO-CH_2-E with a compound of formula R^2-CHX^1X^2 in the presence of a compound of formula R^3R^4N-C(=NH)NH_2 and a catalyst, thereby ~~to form~~forming a dihydropyrimidine; and

b) oxidising the dihydropyrimidine produced in ~~step~~ a) to form the compound of Formula (1) wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

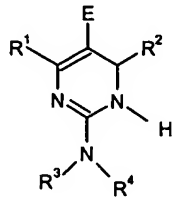
R^2 is H, ~~or~~ an alkyl, or aryl group;

R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; or R^3 and R^4 are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, ~~to form~~ a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group; and

X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups[[,]]; or X^1 and X^2 together ~~represent~~ are =O.

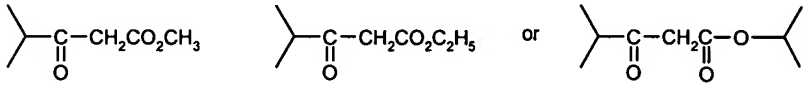
2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the dihydropyrimidine is represented by the Formula (2a), and tautomers thereof:



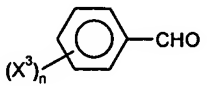
Formula (2a)

~~wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and E are as defined in claim 1~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the compound of formula R^1-CO-CH_2-E is a compound of formulae:



4. (Currently Amended) A process according ~~to any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the compound of formula R^2-CHX^1X^2 is a compound of formula:



wherein X^3 ~~represents~~ is halo, and n is 0 or 1-5~~, and preferably 4-fluorobenzaldehyde~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the compound of formula R^3R^4N-C(=NH)NH_2 is guanidine or methylguanidine.

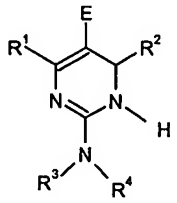
6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein the compound of formula R^3R^4N-C(=NH)NH_2 is employed as a hydrochloride or sulfate salt.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst is a base.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein the base is an alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate or hydrogencarbonate.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the oxidising agent is manganese dioxide.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound of Formula (2a), and tautomers thereof:



Formula (2a)

wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is H, ~~or~~ an alkyl, or aryl group;

R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; provided that R^3 and R^4 are not both unsubstituted alkyl; and

E is an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group[[,]]; further provided that R^1 is not $-CH_3$ when R^2 is unsubstituted phenyl or o-nitrophenyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 10, wherein R^2 ~~represents~~ is a phenyl group substituted ~~by~~ with one or more halogens.

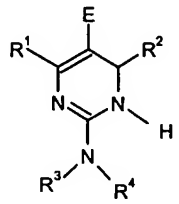
12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein at least one of R^3 and R^4 is H.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 10 ~~to 12~~, wherein R^1 ~~represents~~ is isopropyl and R^2 ~~represents~~ is 4-fluorophenyl.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 10 ~~to 13~~, wherein R^3 is H or methyl and R^4 is H.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~anyone of~~ claims 10 ~~to 14~~, wherein E ~~represents~~ is a group of formula $-CO_2(C_{1-4}alkyl)$.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (2a) and tautomers thereof:



Formula (2a)

which comprises

a) reacting a compound of formula R^1-CO-CH_2-E with a compound of formula R^2-CHX^1X^2 in the presence of a compound of formula R^3R^4N-C(=NH)NH_2 and a catalyst, thereby ~~to form~~forming the compound of Formula (2a)

wherein

R^1 is an H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is an H, ~~or~~ an alkyl, or aryl group;

R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; or R^3 and R^4 are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, ~~to form~~ a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring;

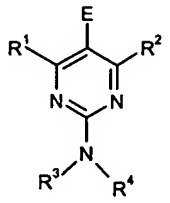
E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group; and

X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups[[,]]; or X^1 and X^2 together ~~represent~~ are =O.

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 16, wherein R^1 ~~represents~~ is isopropyl, R^2 ~~represents~~ is 4-fluorophenyl, and R^3 and R^4 are each independently ~~represents~~ H or methyl.

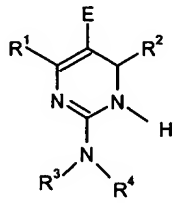
18. (Original) A process according to claim 17, wherein R^3 is methyl and R^4 is H.

19. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (1):



Formula (1)

which comprises oxidising a compound of Formula (2a):



Formula (2a)

wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is an H, an alkyl, or aryl group;

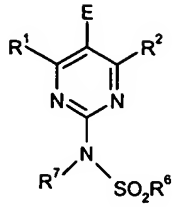
R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl, or aryl[[,]]; or R^3 and R^4 are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, ~~to form~~ a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring; and

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group.

20. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 19, wherein R^1 ~~represents~~ is isopropyl, R^2 ~~represents~~ is 4-fluorophenyl, and R^3 and R^4 are each independently ~~represents~~ H or methyl.

21. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 19 ~~or 20~~, wherein the oxidation employs manganese dioxide.

22. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (3):

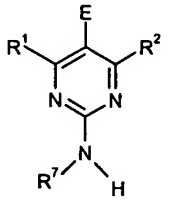


Formula (3)

which comprises

a) reacting a compound of formula R^1-CO-CH_2-E with a compound of formula R^2-CHX^1X^2 in the presence of a compound of formula R^7HN-C(=NH)NH_2 and a catalyst, thereby ~~to form~~forming a dihydropyrimidine;

b) oxidising the dihydropyrimidine produced in ~~step~~ a) to form a compound of Formula (4)



Formula (4)

and

c) reacting the compound of Formula (4) with a compound of formula R^6SO_2-X^4 to give a compound of Formula (3);

wherein

~~R^1, R^2, E, X^1 and X^2 are as defined in claim 1;~~

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is H, an alkyl, or aryl group;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group;

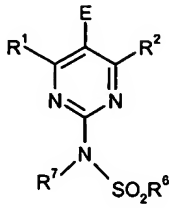
X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups; or X^1 and X^2 together are =O;

R^6 ~~represents~~ is alkyl or aryl~~, preferably methyl~~;

R^7 is H, alkyl or aryl; and

X^4 ~~represents~~ is a leaving group~~, preferably Cl or Br~~.

23. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (3):

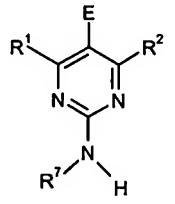


Formula (3)

which comprises

a) reacting a compound of formula R^1-CO-CH_2-E with a compound of formula R^2-CHX^1X^2 in the presence of a compound of formula R^7HN-C(=NH)NH_2 and a catalyst, thereby ~~to form~~forming a dihydropyrimidine comprising an exocyclic group formula -NHR^7;

b) reacting ~~the~~ a compound of Formula (4)



Formula (4)

with a compound of formula R^6SO_2-X^4 to form a dihydropyrimidine comprising an exocyclic group formula -$N(R^7)SO_2R^6$;

c) oxidising the dihydropyrimidine produced in ~~step~~ b) to form a compound of Formula (3);

wherein

R^1 is H or an alkyl group;

R^2 is H, an alkyl, or aryl group;

E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, an aryl group, or an electron withdrawing group;

X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups; or X^1 and X^2 together are =O;

~~R^1, R^2; E, X^1 and X^2 are as defined in claim 1;~~

R^6 ~~represents~~ is alkyl or aryl~~, preferably methyl~~;

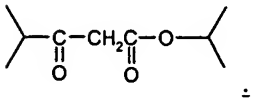
R^7 is H, alkyl or aryl; and

X^4 ~~represents~~ is a leaving group~~, preferably Cl or Br~~.

24. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 22 ~~or 23~~, wherein R^1 ~~represents~~ is isopropyl, R^2 ~~represents~~ is 4-fluorophenyl, X^1 and X^2 together ~~represent~~ are =O, R^6 ~~represents~~ is methyl, E ~~represents~~ is a group of formula $-CO_2(C_{1-4}alkyl)$, and R^7 is H or methyl.

25. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula $(CH_3)_2CH\text{-}CO\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CO_2\text{-}C_3H_7$.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 25, of formula:



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